

Robert A. Peacock. Bob Peacock.

During the war, what address did you live?

When I was going to high school?

Yes.

420 South Greenwood, Park Ridge, Illinois. That's Greenwood and Stuart on the southwest corner. My father built that house in 1922.

During the war, during your life, tell us about your parents and any sisters and brothers.

Give me that question again.

Tell us about your parents or any sisters and brothers.

My parents?

Yeah.

My father was in World War I in the army. He was born in 1896 in Winchester, Indiana. And my mother was born 1895 in Goshen, Missouri, which is like a suburb of Princeton, Missouri. And they met in Washington, D.C. right at the end of World War I. And my birthdate is 1930. They met in '18 and they finally got married in '22. And I have an older brother and sister. And fortunately I came along too because it was the height of the Depression. And my father had the good fortune of graduating from Northwestern University in 1925 and got a job right away. And 1930 rolled around when I was born, he'd bought a new car the month before, which shocked me when I got older. But he had been on the payroll prior to the Depression and had accumulated some money. So there's a complete answer.

Tell us about your neighborhood growing up.

My neighborhood? It was a fun neighborhood. I had a lot of fun growing up there. It was, you know, typical middle-class Park Ridge neighborhood at the time. And it's still similar to that. It was on the southside of town, 420 South Greenwood. And I have many pleasant memories there. There was a lot of empty lots. We used to convert them to baseball diamonds or kick the can or hide and seek. Or we would dig trenches and put covers over them, stuff like that. Just things that kids do. And I had a good childhood.

Since when you were born the country was coming off the Depression, how was the economic situation of your family?

My family? Well, I covered part of that. My father had a job, and he was in the accounts payable with the Illinois Bell Telephone Company. We were, you know, just average. We didn't get new cars every year, but we lived well. And we always went on a vacation with the family. As I say, it was a good life then. Like it is now, for me anyway.

What do you remember about the start of the war, when it first started?

Okay, well, during the 30s, there was a lot of news about Hitler and the political goings-on in Europe. And the strongest recollection I have of a real war was I got up on December 7th, 1941. And I am standing by the hot air heat register, because it was cold, and my parents said, "The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor." But course there was war going on and I didn't pay much attention. You know, Poland was being conquered and Hitler was beginning to make his move. But the Japanese thing, where they bombed us at Pearl Harbor, that got my attention. And I knew that we were at war, you know, in a war. So that's my recollection of it.

So when you heard about Pearl Harbor, your reaction was pretty, like it was there alot, with your friends and yourself?

Well in '41, I was 11 years old.

Yeah.

I wasn't doing much thinking for myself, I'd say, for world affairs. But I could tell my parents were very grave, you know, about what was going on. So I sensed that in the conversation in the kitchen.

After the start of the war, did anyone in your family or like relatives of yours go to fight?

Okay, no, nobody did. I had an older brother, but he was 4F. But neighbors, a number of neighbors went and got killed. Mickey Fitzpatrick I recall, Bob Dusing, I recall, in '39 got killed in Louisiana riding a horse. But an electric line dropped down on his helmet and killed him. But there was people all around. Blue stars, and if you see a gold star, you know, that was a fatality, that they had a lost a person that was in the service. Those two that I cited, those are the ones that I recall most vividly.

You said your dad work. Did your mother also work?

My mother did not work. She was a housewife.

When you were high school after the war started, did things change at all, in the atmosphere? Did you notice anything different?

Well, the thing I remember about the war was going on, it didn't seem to really affect us that much. We students were in school. But really what affected you was if somebody in the neighborhood got killed, like Mickey Fitzpatrick. I knew him, I knew him and so forth. And that was where it began to hit home. Wait a minute, somebody I know getting killed in a war; this is serious stuff. But I would say that as far as going to school, I remember going to school we went on a real bus because everything was going to the war effort. I think we had a 1919 bus, and it had a hood sticking out. And the guy shifting the gears practically had to use two hands and so forth. But that would be during the 40's. Well '44 to '48, that was when I was in high school. And I used to catch the 8:15 at Greenwood and Stuart. I'd walk across the street. And I could miss that bus sometimes too because it was so easy. Or else you were walking in there tucking in my shirt and what have you. Just like you'd be.

You said that the high school things changed when you noticed people were killed in the war. At home did things change more to the affect of like rationing, rationing of food and gasoline?

Oh, sure, there was rationing. There was meat rationing, gasoline rationing. Wherever there was a shortage of something, that would get rationed too. Yeah, we were affected. Yes, the supply of food to the public was affected. Can I tell the gasoline rationing? Our country's not perfect, but we are pretty close to it. But there was a place when there was gasoline rationing, and my parents wanted to take a trip, my dad would scrounge A stamps or B from somebody. I don't know where he would get them. But to give them the opportunity to buy the gas. He would just scrape together. Because if you just took the allotment that you had, you couldn't do any traveling. And there was also one more, black market gas, did anyone mention that yet? Yeah, there was one gas station you would go to if you got any fifty cent a gallon gas. You know, gas was like fifteen cents or something like that. And I guess I was like fifteen because my dad wouldn't go. He'd say, "Take the car and go and get gas and fill it up." I was shocked that he would spend that type of money. But that was what traveling meant to him at that time.

Do you have any stories about food rationing or any other type of rationing besides gasoline?

Food rationing? Well the strongest recollection is meat. You had to have stamps. All I had was a gasoline ration stamp. But we had ration books and you take out a square and you needed so many points to buy meat and what have you. I just have hazy recollection of that because all I did was eat it. I didn't go buy it.

During high school, tell us about your friends at the time, like what you guys did and how you guys hung out.

Give me that question again.

Like during high school, what did you do with your friends at the time?

What did I do with my friends? Well, in high school is when you flock together and you meet people from the other side of town and so forth. And you form a gang. I became a member of, six of us we called ourselves the Big Six. In high school, that's where, and I am sure that it is true in your cases too, you drift from your grade school friends to people, high school friends might have common interest with you and so forth. I was always kind of athletic in high school, so therefore most of my friends were athletes. And I think Ralph Bishop who we mentioned, he was very good with his hands and could run a lathe. I couldn't spell lathe. But he was good at stuff. Whatever our interests were, we seemed to germinate in that direction. But what we would do in high school, we got together on weekends to play cards. We learned to play bridge, poker, and what have you. And we played tennis. In the fall we played touch football. Although more of that was after because I played football in high school. But we would just hang out.

How was dating in high school?

How was it?

Yeah.

Well, it was going on. Me personally, I wasn't hooked up with any girl regularly, but I would get dates for the big dances and what have you. I have pictures. You know, I betcha we look at that book and there would be picture of me and my date along with friends of mine. In fact at the old Ye Old Cellar down on Michigan Avenue, I remember that's where we went afterwards downtown. Phil Sullivan's dad was at Downtown News and assistant vice president at Commonwealth Edison and he frequented those places. I didn't know anything about them. But his dad would line us up a place for us to go to with our dates. And I can remember. I got a picture of that in here too.

When you were a student in high school, did you do any kind of volunteer work or any kind of the sort of that?

Volunteer work? I can remember going to pick up newspapers, which was for part of the war effort. In fact, Ralph Bishop's father drove the Perkins moving truck and I remember riding there picking up newspapers. And Sam Amzula, the old athletic director from Main, he was driving a truck one time too. So we were doing stuff like that, picking up newspapers for the war effort. I don't know where it went, but they wanted the newspapers. And some junk I think too. But the newspapers I remember more vividly.

During high school, you said you knew a couple of people who had been killed in the war. Did they have assemblies? Do you remember any assemblies for the people...

Assemblies?

Yes.

Well, let me think a second. No, the only thing I remember about the war, was my freshman year, a fellow by the name of Jack Nicholas who lived on the other side of town was leaving school early. He was a very good student and he joined the Navy Air Force. And the school turned him loose because he was going to graduate, but the effort, they needed pilots at the time. I can remember that. I don't specifically remember them announcing if any alums or ex-students were killed, other than just word of mouth.

Do you remember did you sell any bonds during the war?

Did I sell bonds! We bought the C-54. I was part of that bunch. Well, that is what triggered this whole thing, come to think of it. Let's see, that must have been my freshman year. Yes, I can remember going up and ringing a doorbell and selling a bonds. We raised the money. You happen to know the number? Was it 500,000? Or 300,000? 400,000?

I think 5.

Something like that. We paid for a C-54, a DC-4, which was made right out here at the Douglas plant. Yes, I do recall that.

Is there any certain experience do you remember about selling bonds door-to-door? Any certain experiences with those?

Yeah. Good and bad. Some people were really for it. And some people, you know you go knock on the door, you are going to run into the personality whatever it is on the other side of the door. And I can remember some people were not real happy to see us. And some people brought you and sat you down. And they'd come up with some kind of money of some kind. That was kind of, you know, a purposeful thing that brought everyone together. We were working hard on it. And the fellow that, I saw pictures of the dedication of it, and I knew the fellow that was, Norm Olson. Yeah, he was the guy up there. The picture of him, he's in front of the microphone. But he was a whirlwind in school. He was good at everything. Good athlete, good student, president of the student council, president of student council's council. He was a super guy. Superman, that's I called him. He could do everything. Like Michael Jordan on basketball.

When you were in high school, V-Day came, victory in Europe. What do you remember about that?

Victory in which?

In Europe.

In Europe. VE Day. Well, I think I was a freshman in high school. '44 I entered. Was that in April of '45 or something like that? Okay, I remember we were relieved about that. I was in Mr. Roberts or Robertson's woodworking class I think it was. My freshman year you take all that different stuff, and that's what I remember hearing about that. Well, I was quite happy; everybody was. And that's when we shifted our attention from Europe and everything started moving over to the South Pacific. But, I just remember the war ended. I don't remember any rockets going off or any big celebrations. Nothing sticks in my mind right now. But tremendous relief that the war in Europe was over.

So maybe you felt the same relief with VJ Day?

VJ Day? Oh yeah, sure. Now, let's see. VJ Day. I think I just got together with my friends. I don't know if we went downtown. I don't recall. We were at the age where we... [LAUGHS] We were all elated that the war was over.

After the war, you were still in high school. But after high school, how was your life after graduation? After you graduated high school, what did you do?

When I graduated from high school, all my friends were going off to college. But I wasn't interested in going off to college at that point. And so my mother said, "Why don't you go up to North Dakota, visit your cousin, who is the postmaster in Larimore, North Dakota? He'll get you a job in the wheat harvest." So that's what I did. And I went up there, and I found out I better get to college because I don't want to be a wheat farmer. Although I had a good time. So I started school the following February at the University of Illinois. But I wasn't really a college kind of thinking guy, even though all my friends were. Coming back from North Dakota, I thought, "Well, maybe there are other things to do besides being a wheat farmer." But I got to visit my relatives. It was a good, healthy life. The big thing I remember about that era of my life was I weighed 161 when I went up there. Seven weeks later, I came back I weighed 180 because when you work the wheat harvest, you are in the fields at 6 and then 8 o'clock you have something to eat. Or 10 o'clock I guess. And then you go back to the house at noon for lunch. And then you have another something to eat at 4 o'clock. And then you eat again at 8 o'clock and go to bed. And get ready to do the same thing all over again the next day. But that was interesting. And I came back much stronger and heavier and more prepared that I've better get myself in school somewhere, catch up with my friends.

So after you came back, where did you go from there?

Where's that?

After you came back from North Dakota, where did you go from there?

I went back to Greenwood and Stuart. And let's see, I worked, got ready to go to school. I've got the original application in here. Remember I mentioned that when we were talking? The University of Illinois extension down at Galesburg. And you know why that happened? Because a friend of mine that I went to high school with, a high school classmate of mine, was there going to school. And when you guys get ready to go to college, you're going to college, unless you are going to be a doctor or a nuclear engineer or something like that, you are going to go where your friends are. And that's where I went. So that was the beginning of it. And from there over to Champagne and the Sigma Nu fraternity and began the collegiate life.

Look back, during the war years, would you like to tell anybody like in our generation about your experience?

My experience during the war years? Well, my experience was, you know, I was just seeing people I knew weren't coming home, getting killed in battle or whatever or accidents. But it really didn't affect me personally that much. It affected what you did. Gas rationing, you couldn't go any place, unless you went for that fifty cent a gallon gas or something like that. But nobody had any money to buy any, that sort of a thing. I would say that I had a good life even though the war was going on because that's what we knew. That's when I made my friends, high school friends, which I still see today. Some of them are just deceased from, you know, natural. Ralph Bishop and I talk about another guy in our neighborhood that we just lost who was a nice guy. During the Depression he had a motorscooter and a pony. And everybody in the neighborhood got to ride the pony or got a ride on the motorscooter if you were too young to ride it yourself. Unselfish, he was a very unselfish guy. So I talk to Bishop, I talk about that. But life was good, because that was what we knew. There was no pain, other than the pain of losing someone you know, and they were all older than we were anyway, older than I was. I would say as far as we were concerned, we weren't that affected. And I guess you that you might say we were relieved that we weren't any older because we would be over there getting shot at too. Which came later, you know, I was in the Korean War, but that's a different thing. I don't know if I answered your question or not. What was it?

No it was good, you answered it.

No, I would say that we had a good life because you know, friends. You are at the age now where you are making friends right now, high school and what have you. People you have common interests in. I don't want to take the interview away from you. That's my opinion.

Do you want to stop it?

But I couldn't cite it. I don't have a strong recollection, but I'm sure we did something.

Okay, I just have a few more questions about your personal life in high school. Did you get into any trouble with your friends?

Did I get into any trouble with my friends? Like I said in the last interview, my friends were pretty much all athletes. And I don't really recall really getting into trouble. You mean kind of like dumping garbage cans? That was kind of like eighth grade stuff or something like that. But high school, what did we do? Well, yeah. I don't know if I want to talk about this or not. One of the things - wasn't my idea, but I followed along - that all the sudden a bunch of stop signs started showing up at all the corners that we'd been used to driving through or what have you. And all the sudden here these stop signs were and we resented it. There was a group of used to go out and with a saw (it was wood), and we'd cut them down. It made the paper. And we were known as the Park Ridge Firsters. So I hope nobody's got a paper with our names in there. [LAUGHS] That was sixty-five years ago. So the friend of mine whose uncle invented Maybelline, did I mention that? I did, okay. Well, he lived on Prospect. As a matter a fact, Marty Butler who is the mayor of Park Ridge. You'd never heard that name, but maybe you have. He lived in their house on Prospect. He lived in Hugh's old house. And any rate, Hugh's parents were off, you know, in high school. So we were over there. I remember staying up all night listening to the music, I got to stop and think. It became a jazz... some play. Anyway, all night, doing all night stuff like you do; I don't know if you have done it yet or not. But we would break out from there, cut a sign, and come running back and stuck it up in the attic. And they were up there dropping it in the attic, and somebody got off the rafters. And here came the ceiling like this; it just bent down. Didn't go, it didn't break. And I thought, "Oh boy." But anyhow, I think those were discovered like twenty-five years later. I heard something where they reappeared. But that was something that I was not proud of, but we did. And you know, get the police's attention, so forth, and made the paper. Because we resented those stop signs popping up. What did we know, we were just trouble. Yeah, right. But did I ever get in school, is that was your question was?

What did you spend your time doing, other than sports obviously?

That was one exception. What did I spend my time doing? School activities. Later, my junior and senior year working out in the summer time to get in shape for football, wrestling, that sort of a thing. And everybody that I hung around with, they were all athletes- track men, football players, wrestlers. I was attracted to them. You know, that was our common interest. But on a whole, I was not a trouble maker, nor were my friends, inspite of that story that I just told.

But you were very much involved with things that went on with your school, right?

Well, athletic wise. I was not in the German Club or anything like that. I think that with the school, athletics that was my major outlet.

You talked about some blue and gold stars that were put in people's windows.

Political what?

Blue and gold stars that were in people's windows during the wartime.

Oh, yeah, those were... If you had somebody in the service, a blue star. It was red, white, and blue. Nobody's produced one of those? Okay, yeah, and then if your son happened to get killed, or daughter, who was in the service, they would put a gold star. A gold star, that meant somebody in the family was killed in the service. That was a sad, you know, everybody felt badly about that.

Where was black market gas station that you continually bought gas at for long trips?

Well, yeah, what about it? You want to know the location of it? [LAUGHS]

Was it in somebody's alley, garage?

No, it was a gas station. A regular gas station. Okay, that was really not the ethical thing to do, but during wartime, black market and things like that appear. That appeared.

So like you would go talk to someone at the gas station and they would give you as much gas as you wanted?

My dad would say, "We're going down to see your brother. Take the car." Oh, take the car, okay! "Go down and get some of that fifty cent a gallon gas." Would you love to have it now, I tell you! [LAUGHTS] But I would do that, because I got to drive the car. It was a big deal. That's just what was going on. And I wasn't the only one. I don't know if you are going to get anymore interviewees that'll admit to that, but I am just being candid and forthright and telling you exactly the way it was back then. So, but I did that three or four times. Or maybe more than that. Because I was one of the first ones to get the car to drive. I think I got my license when I was sixteen. Is that when you get them now?

Yeah.

Maybe I was fourteen, I don't know. But I got it over in Evanston. And I knew how to drive. Oh, when I was eight, our family car was a model A Ford. I could drive it when I was eight years old too [LAUGHS]. Because one day my dad, Saturday, my mother wasn't there. My dad was up taking a nap in the bedroom. And for some reason or another, we got to talking about the cars. "Yeah, I can drive." "Oh, you can't." "Yes, I can." I went in and got the key, came back out, started it, backed it out of the driveway. It was only, I backed it, I don't know, thirty feet. And back and then shut it off and went up. I did that

two or three times. Two times it was. The third time I went in, "Yeah, I did it." Here's my dad, with his hair all ruffled, "What's going on?" [LAUGHS]. So I guess I got in trouble; he wasn't happy about that. But anyway, I was driving a car when I was eight years old.

How many brothers and sisters did you say you have?

How many what?

Brothers and sisters.

I have one brother and one sister.

Both younger?

No, I'm the youngest.

Okay.

Can't you tell by my stories that I'm the youngest and I got the benefit of everything? My father was in World War I. My brother was born in '22, my sister in '24. And I'm born in '30. I'm not sure how much they planned on having a... on the threshold of a depression. But my dad bought a car in March. I was born a month later. And I just recently surmised that boy, that's amazing that he was spending that kind of money. Because as we were growing up, you know, we didn't have that much money around the house. And for him to be spending that much money. He was giving my mother the best care, because you go to Evanston at that time. That's where the medical, the doctors were. And the doctor she went to was over in Evanston. And that was a tough drive. It was like eight miles down or something like that, eownOakton on those two lane roads. But, yeah, so. Do you have another question I know the answer to that you don't?

Did you do any work in high school?

Work?

Like did you get paid for picking up those papers?

No, it was volunteer.

No, that was completely free?

That was war effort stuff. It was volunteer. You did not get paid. But did I ever work in high school? Yeah, the first job I ever had I worked for Art Hansen at the little store at

Western and Crescent. There used to be a little store. It's before all you guys here. There was a store down there. You know where Lincoln School is?

Yes.

The southern boundary, that's Crescent. And you go down to Western. Now it's a parking lot for the Park District and everything. But that used to be woods back there, field and woods. And there was a little store right there. Cap, Cappy, was the guy. And old couple ran it. And their milk they sold was Brandt Dairy. B-R-A-N-D-T. It came out of Crystal Lake or something like that. Did I answer your question?

Yes, thanks.

How long ago, how many sentences ago did I answer it?

No, that was very thought out. And the last thing we'd like to talk about is the helmet that you have right there.

Oh, yes. This is a civil defense helmet. And my father was the black warden, I guess that's what they called it. He had this helmet. And that's when we were having blackouts and so forth. We had a blackout scheduled, and he'd, in case we were going to get bombed, I don't recall him, he wore the helmet occasionally I guess. But he would go out and assure everything was black. You know, that there was no light getting out. And this was the helmet that was issued to him. And I've had it all these years. Since about 1941 or 2, somewhere like that. And it's the shape of a World War I helmet, but it's white. Civil defense, that's what the sign is on the front. So thank you for asking. I'm sure he'd get a kick out of it. My father right now is 118. You're not going to get any answers from him, but that's where he is, okay.

Also, do you remember anything specific about the bond drive buying the C-54 aircraft? Or did you have any...

For the aircraft?

... connections to Douglas Aircraft?

Well, you got two questions there. That was a school event, raising the bond money for buying the airplane. And the school got behind it, and everybody, all the students went out and saturated the two towns, Park Ridge and Des Plaines. And we did every block. Everybody got tapped, so we achieved our goal. I don't remember the details. But I can remember in there, hate to go ask for money, but people were receptive because it was wartime and so forth. I don't recall any unpleasant things. I just recall that a guy would open the door and they were kind of willing, you know, to contribute money. They were

buying war bonds and you know. I don't remember any amounts of money they donated. Five, ten dollars? That was a lot of money then. Fifteen? I don't recall any numbers. Maybe somebody else will. But the community was receptive for doing that.

Do you remember the school driving you down to the aircraft carrier where you could see the plane?

No, the airport. We saw the plane down at O'Hare Field. It was behind... The Douglas plant, they built the Douglas plant during the war to make those airplanes there. And that was the O'Hare, it's Orchard Place. That where the identifier, ORD, for Orchard Place that's the O'Hare Field. On the west side of the wooden structure. It was all thrown up quickly, all made of wood. It's where they had the ceremony for the airplane. Now after the war was over, I remember there was a big glow in the sky, that whole plant burned. Did you ever hear about that? Oh, yeah, that was huge. Ralph Bishop will remember. The sky was all aglow with fire. But before that happened though, while I was in high school, I got a job working there driving a forklift truck. Because a guy named Patrick Callahan's father was a civil service guy, and he could hire the kids. I got hired and worked there for a while. When we had our initial meeting, Stranahan was talking about that, Dick Stranahan. At the, when all the classes got together.

Reunion, right.

And finally, when you were college, what did you study?

I was a sales, advertising, marketing major. That's my degree. That's what it says on my diploma. Business.

Did you end up using it a lot?

Using it?

Yes.

I'm using it right now just talking. It's kind of a catch all phrase, you know. Sales, management, how to management people, I use it all. You know, I run a couple companies. Own, run, and so forth, started them. I'm the founder of the one company. It's in the aluminum industry, where I use the airplane flying all over the place. Because of that skill of being a pilot, I was able to get it all done- and had fun doing it. That was the big thing. Going to work? It wasn't going it work; it was fun. I'd take off. I used to smoke cigars. I'd get up there and turn the corner there Lake Michigan going to West Virginia call it Kaiser Aluminum. Light up a cigar, crack the window, I thought I was living in tall cotton- and I was! But I don't smoke anymore, so... Don't smoke! But, yeah, good life, I've had a good life. How old am I?

83.

Four?

It's three.

Yeah, okay. Oops.

Everybody in my class is 83.

How are we doing on the tape there?

We've got forty-two minutes.

Oh, okay.

Two minutes.

And I'm the tail end of it, of the people you want to talk to. The classes ahead of me were more involved with war. You'd probably get better answers.

These are good answers. These are good.

They are alright?

Yeah, sure.

Pause.

[Female Voice]. Well, I'm very interested in the environment you described for us growing up in Greenwood and Stuart. And I wanted to ask you a little bit about West Park and the shopping areas in Park Ridge. So can you tell me if you played or sledded at West Park?

West Park? Didn't exist. Remember I told you about the little store, Cappy's? Crescent and Western, everything behind that was either woods or a lot. In fact it was empty land, then the woods started maybe a little over a quarter mile back. There was no West Park. The park I grew up with was Hinckly uptown. And I used to go uptown and go swimming. That was a big deal. Ride your bike up or walk up. Or have your mother would drop us off, or drop me off.

Okay, and what about ice skating?

Ice skating? My strongest recollections of ice skating was at Crescent and Greenwood, Crescent and Delphia, on the north side of the street, there was a little low berm around. And the city would flood that. And we skated there.

Oh, interesting.

The Eastman brothers played hockey there. I have very vivid recollections of them.

Okay, now in that general area, was there a POW camp for German prisoners during the war?

There was one in Des Plaines. They had prisoners working there. But I just knew of it, and I might have seen one. But I wasn't exposed. The Des Plaines boys would know more about that.

Okay. Now as far as the library, did you use the Park Ridge Library?

Occasionally. The library, I wasn't a real... [LAUGHS] Yeah, if I had to go to the library for something, I would go.

Sure.

And the library was located, do you know where it was? That house on the, it's John Owen, the lawyer there or something like that.

I'm not sure who is there now, but you are referring the building at Touhy Prospect and Northwest Highway.

Right, on the northwest side, Prospect, between Prospect and Northwest Highway on the northwest side.

Right.

It looks just like a house now. It looks small now, but back then it was pretty big.

Do you remember any other stores in town?

Stores?

I was thinking about the Tally-ho.

I remember the Tally-ho, it's a place to eat.

Right, and the Park Ridge Pantry?

The Pantry? Right, I remember that.

Were there any more restaurants that your parents might have taken you to?

We didn't eat out very often. I can remember having lunch at Nick's, which was on Main Street and the first street off of Touhy. It was on the corner. It was Nick the Greek. When I was in eighth grade, seventh and eighth grade, we would go there and have cheeseburgers or hamburgers. It was a big deal, because I didn't eat out much. But my friends, as my world was in expanding in seventh and eighth grade, the northsiders came over and went to school at Lincoln. I lived three blocks from Lincoln. And I got to know those guys, and we'd go play baseball or something like that. Or swimming. And we'd go to Nick's for lunch. That was a big deal for me. But other restaurants? The Tally-ho, the Pantry, those were fine eating places. I remember Robinsons, the ice cream place. The Coffee Cup.

Alright, and you mentioned you went to Lincoln School. Where did you go to grade school?

Lincoln School. Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Oh, I didn't realize it was a...

What year did I start? 1935. That's what the school was.

Okay. And last but not least, Riverview? Did you and your friends go to Riverview?

Did we go to Riverview? Yes, I went to Riverview. You skipped over that. My mother wouldn't let me ride the parachutes, but I fixed her. After I got married, I rode the parachutes. And the bops, I was regulated. And the bops, that was the big thing. Well, you mentioned Riverview. Well, I am going to be stumbling here, but there was a Riverview pass that was here. Let me see.

Do you remember how much it cost to get in?

No, I do not recall. But I do know they charged you to get in. Anything, spending any money, that was against my parents wishes. But we did go. That was a big deal. I had that here. I wonder if it fell out. Those were the letters from my cousins during the war.

I'm just trying to film some of the pictures so we can access them later if we need to.

Oh.

Very nice.

Well, that's great, so you have a recollection of going to Riverview.

Must have been, my mother, she put them in there, in the scrapbook.

Well, thank you, those were just some follow-up....

This is not worth recording, but in here somewhere... And he remembers it too. I got drafted in there, and we were putting a circus on, you know, I was an act on the swing or something, I can't remember. But anyway, it got written up. If I can run across it here before it's bedtime. It's in here somewhere, because I can remember seeing it. Dempster Golf Club. We played golf in seventh and eighth grade. That's a Catholic cemetery now.

St. Eddleburgs?

Yeah, well see, Bishops. Here is it. One act circus makes a hit on Delphia Avenue. Right on next to the Riverview. Ralph Bishop, Bob Peacock, and Donald Miller, Ruth Group. It's a good thing I went through this stuff before I came over here.

That is great.

So that's some of the things we did. But Bishop, he was three years older than me, but he was about the same size as me, you know. But I have strong...